

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6-9, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39, 45, 47, 49, 52, 53, 55, 58-60, 65, 67, 70, 71, 73, 76-78, 85, 88, 89, 97 and 98.

Sub. B3 > 6. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to] claim 5, wherein [the trigger condition is determined by selecting a random number from a predetermined range of numbers to be associated with each main game, and] the step of allotting to the game a set of numbers is achieved by allotting to the game a number in the [set] predetermined range of numbers such that the set of numbers is all numbers in the predetermined range less than or equal to the allotted number, the allotted number being proportional to the wager and in the event that the allotted number is greater than or equal to the randomly selected number, [indicating that] the trigger condition is indicated as having [has] occurred.

a 7. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to] claim 6, wherein [the trigger condition is determined by selecting a random number from a predetermined range of numbers to be associated with each main game, and] the step of allotting to the game a set of numbers is achieved by allotting to the game a number in the [set] predetermined range of numbers such that the set of numbers is all numbers in the predetermined range less than or equal to the allotted number, the allotted number being inversely proportional to the wager and in the event that the allotted number is greater than or equal to the randomly selected number, [indicating that] the trigger condition is indicated as having [has] occurred.

8. (Amended) The prize awarding feature of [6 or 7] claim 5, wherein the predetermined random number range is related to the desired average turnover on the console between successive initiations of the feature game divided by the credit value for that console.

9. (Amended) The prize awarding feature of [7 or 8] claim 5, wherein the set of allotted numbers includes a number for each credit bet on the game.

a2 12. (Amended) The prize awarding feature of claim 10[or 11], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes one number for each unit of the currency denomination wagered on the game.

13. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 5, wherein the gaming console allots a block of numbers within the predetermined range to the game.

a3 15. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 5, wherein the feature outcome is a simplified game having a higher probability of winning a major prize than in the main game.

a4 19. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 16, wherein the prizes are of unequal value and the symbols have different weightings on at least one reel.

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20. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 5, wherein one or more gaming consoles are associated with a gaming system, each of the gaming consoles being connected to a gaming network and including a signal output means arranged to produce an output signal in response to operation of the respective console, such that a central feature jackpot system connected to the network provides an incrementing jackpot pool which increases in response to signals from the connected consoles and the feature jackpot game on each machine awards a jackpot drawn from the jackpot pool.

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25. (Amended) The prize awarding feature of claim 23 [or 24], wherein the console is arranged to play a main game, during which testing for the trigger condition will occur, and the feature outcome initiated by the trigger condition is the awarding of a feature game.

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27. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 23 to 26] claim 23, wherein the trigger condition is determined by selecting a random number from a predetermined range of numbers to be associated with each main game, and allotting to the game a set of numbers selected from the predetermined range of numbers, the size of the set of allotted numbers being related to the wager bet on the respective game, and in the event that one of the numbers allotted to the game matches the randomly selected number, indicating that the trigger condition has occurred.

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29. (Amended) The prize awarding feature of claim 27 [or 28], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes a number for each credit bet on the game.

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32. (Amended) The prize awarding feature of claim 30 [or 31], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes one number for each unit of the currency denomination wagered on the game.

33. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 23 to 32] claim 27, wherein the gaming console allots a block of numbers within the predetermined range to the game.

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35. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 23 to 34] claim 27, wherein the feature outcome is a simplified game having a higher probability of a major prize being won than in the main game.

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38. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in claim 36 [or 37], wherein the symbols are of equal value and equally weighted on each reel.

39. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 23 to 38] claim 36, wherein the prizes are of unequal value and the symbols have different weightings on at least one reel.

a11

45. (Amended) The gaming console of claim 43 [or 44], wherein the console is arranged to play a main game, during which testing for the trigger condition will occur, and the feature outcome initiated by the trigger condition is the awarding of a feature game.

a¹² 47. (Amended) The gaming console as claimed in [any one of claims 45 to 46] claim 45, wherein the trigger condition is determined by selecting a random number from a predetermined range of numbers to be associated with each main game, and allotting to the game a set of numbers selected from the predetermined range of numbers, the size of the set of allotted numbers being related to the wager bet on the respective game, and in the event that one of the numbers allotted to the game matches the randomly selected number, indicating that the trigger condition has occurred.

a¹³ 49. (Amended) The gaming console of claim 47 [or 48], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes a number for each credit bet on the game.

a¹⁴ 52. (Amended) The gaming console of claim 50 [or 51], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes one number for each unit of the currency denomination wagered on the game.

a¹⁴ 53. (Amended) The gaming console as claimed in [any one of claims 43 to 52] claim 47, wherein the gaming console allots a block of numbers within the predetermined range to the game.

a¹⁵ 55. (Amended) The gaming console as claimed in [any one of claims 43 to 54] claim 47, wherein the feature outcome is a simplified game having a higher probability of success than the main game.

58. (Amended) The gaming console as claimed in claim 56[or 57], wherein the symbols are of equal value and equally weighted on each reel.

59. (Amended) The gaming console as claimed in [any one of claims 43 to 58] claim 56, wherein the prizes are of unequal value and the symbols have different weightings on at least one reel.

a¹⁶ 60. (Amended) The gaming console as claimed in [any one of claims 43 to 59] claim 47, wherein the console is arranged to be connected to a gaming network and includes signal output means arranged to produce an output signal in response to operation of the console, such that a central feature jackpot system connected to the network provides an incrementing jackpot pool which increases in response to signals from the connected consoles and the feature jackpot game is arranged to award a jackpot prize drawn from the jackpot pool.

a¹⁷ 65. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 61 to 64] claim 61, wherein the trigger condition is determined by selecting a random number from a predetermined range of numbers to be associated with each main game, and allotting to the game a set of numbers selected from the predetermined range of numbers, the size of the set of allotted numbers being related to the wager bet on the respective game, and in the event that one of the numbers allotted to the game matches the randomly selected number, indicating that the trigger condition has occurred.

a¹⁸ 67. (Amended) The method of claim 65 [or 66], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes a number for each credit bet on the game.

a¹⁹ 70. (Amended) The method of claim 68 [or 69], wherein the set of allotted numbers includes one number for each unit of the currency denomination wagered on the game.

71. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 61 to 70] claim 65, wherein the gaming console allots a block of numbers within the predetermined range to the game.

a²⁰ 73. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 61 to 72] claim 65, wherein the feature outcome is a simplified game having a higher probability of success than the main game.

76. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 74 [or 75], wherein the symbols are of equal value and equally weighted on each reel.

a²¹ 77. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 74 or 75] claim 74, wherein the prizes are of unequal value and the symbols have different weightings on at least one reel.

78. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any one of claims 61 to 77] claim 65, wherein one or more gaming consoles are associated with the method, each of which is connected to a gaming network and includes signal output means arranged to produce an output signal in response to operation of the respective console, such that a central feature jackpot system connected to the network provides an incrementing jackpot pool, the method including increasing the jackpot pool in response to signals from the connected consoles and when the feature jackpot game on each machine awards a jackpot drawing the jackpot from the jackpot pool.

a²² 85. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 81 to 84] claim 81, wherein the feature outcome is a simplified game having a higher probability of winning a major prize than in the main game.

a²³ 88. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in claim 85 [or 86], wherein the symbols are of equal value and equally weighted on each reel.

89. (Amended) The prize awarding feature as claimed in [any one of claims 81 to 88] claim 81, wherein the prizes are of unequal value and the symbols have different weightings on at least one reel.

Sub. B10> a²⁴ 97. (Amended) The gaming system as claimed in claim 94 [or 95], wherein the symbols are of equal value and equally weighted on each reel.

98. (Amended) The gaming system as claimed in [any one of claims 90 to 97] claim 90, wherein the prizes are of unequal value and the symbols have different weightings on at least one reel.